

VSH FUTURES
FEEDBACK, COMMUNICATION, AND WORK PROCESS
June 30, 2005

The work of the VSH Futures Implementation Project will be conducted and reviewed through a series of working groups, stakeholder committees, with legislative oversight primarily provided by the Joint Mental Health Legislative Oversight Committee. In addition, VDH plans to expand staffing for this implementation project phase.

Stakeholder Advisory Groups:

VSH Futures Advisory Committee This is the legislatively appointed, ad hoc, advisory committee for the Futures Plan. Going forward, the committee will meet every two months, review and suggest modifications to reports and updates from work groups, and will provide overall feedback to the Secretary of AHS and VDH.

Adult Mental Health Program Standing Committee This ongoing advisory committee to VDH is appointed by the Governor. Its roles are detailed in regulations and involve policy development and oversight of quality for the publicly-funded mental health services system. The committee meets monthly, is comprised of a majority consumers and family members and also has strong representation of inpatient and community service providers. The Adult MH State Standing committee can assume the advisory role of the Futures committee when it sun sets. In the interim, the standing committee will receive updates and provide overall feedback to VDH management on the Futures project.

Local Adult Mental Health Program Standing Committees (10). Appointed by the DA executive director and advisory to the DA Board of Directors the roles of these local committees are detailed in Agency Designation Regulations. They meet and review and advise on local program implementation of the Futures plan. These committees have met collectively and individually to review the Futures implementation plans.

Working Groups:

Sub-Acute Rehabilitation and Secure Residential Development Group Organized by the CRT Directors and the Council this group meets every three weeks. Members include representatives of the Futures Advisory Committee, VSH and VDH. This work group is responsible for overseeing the developing the rehabilitation program and secure residential programs. Work group provides regular updates to the VSH Futures Advisory Committee for feedback and modification.

Clinical Care Management System Design Work Group (Proposed) Jointly sponsored by the VT Council of DS and MH Providers and the VT Association of Hospitals and Health Care Systems, this proposed working group is primarily comprised of hospital and community psychiatrists, CRT Directors and community representatives.

This group will be tasked with clarifying the roles for each component in the system of care, to design clinical protocols and criteria guiding patient / client movement through the system, and to develop an overall approach to managing access to high intensity services. Has met twice and, pending approval of the VSH Futures Advisory Committee, will set up a regular meeting schedule. The work group will provide regular updates to the VSH Futures Advisory Committee for feedback and modification.

Inpatient Work Group (Proposed) Pending approval of the VSH Futures Advisory Committee, this group will be established by VDH with membership comprised of clinical and administrative leaders of inpatient psychiatric and community mental health services, advocates, and representatives of the VSH Futures Advisory Committee. The proposed work group will have the following initial tasks. Analyze the pros and cons of locating the new psychiatric inpatient service at a single versus multiple sites and develop a recommendation on this. Assist in developing the scope of work for an incidence / prevalence study by an outside contractor to estimate the number of new psychiatric inpatient beds that VT should plan for.

Other Work Groups Under Consideration:

- ✓ Legal
- ✓ Alternative Treatment
- ✓ Housing Resources
- ✓ Transportation

Legislative Committees

Joint Mental Health Legislative Oversight Committee Tasked to review Futures plans and progress, recommend action and approve the Futures Plan. The meeting schedule is to be developed.

House Human Services Committee Reviews and approves proposed policy and programmatic changes for Human Services. VDH consults with this committee.

Senate Health and Welfare Committee Reviews and approves proposed policy and programmatic changes for Human Services. VDH consults with this committee.

House and Senate Institutions Committees Reviews and approves capital construction and renovation, including VSH and replacement. VDH consults with these committees.

House and Senate Appropriations Committees Review and develop overall budget. The deliberations of this committee will impact the phasing and scope of Futures plan implementation.

VDH Proposed Communication / Approval Process

1) Regular communication between VDH and Joint Legislative Oversight Committee Chairs to assist in resolving issues, to support legislative involvement in the plan, and to plan committee hearings.

2) VDH recommends that MH Joint Oversight Committee be the lead legislative policy committee for the Futures plan and implementation process.

3) VDH will provide a monthly written brief on progress, emerging controversy, and items pending decisions to the chairs of MH Joint Legislative Committee, Human Services, and Institutions committees.